LeetCode Placement Strategy: The "Pattern" Approach

Objective: Clear the "Online Assessment" (OA) round of campus placements.
Target: 60-75 High-Yield Problems in 30 Days.

The Golden Rule: Don't Grind, Recognize Patterns

Do not just solve "Two Sum". Understand that it is a Hashing problem.
Do not just solve "Container With Most Water". Understand that it is a Two Pointer problem.
Your Goal: Learn 14 core patterns. If you know the pattern, you can solve any new variation they throw at you.

High-Yield Topics (What actually comes in OAs)

Based on recent hiring trends for Fresher/SDE-1 roles.

Priority	Topic	Frequency in OA	Frequency in F2F
High	Arrays & Hashing	⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐	⭐⭐⭐
High	Sliding Window / Two Pointers	⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐	⭐⭐⭐⭐
High	Trees (BST/DFS/BFS)	⭐⭐⭐⭐	⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐
Medium	Dynamic Programming (1D)	⭐⭐⭐	⭐⭐⭐
Medium	Graphs (Islands/Traversals)	⭐⭐⭐	⭐⭐⭐⭐
Low	Linked Lists	⭐⭐	⭐⭐⭐⭐

The 30-Day "Blind 75" Schedule

Daily Target: 2-3 Problems (Approx. 90 mins).
Focus: Medium difficulty (This is the placement sweet spot).

Week 1: The Basics (Arrays & Hashing)

Mastering these is mandatory for passing the first 10 minutes of any coding test.

- **Day 1:** Contains Duplicate (Easy), Valid Anagram (Easy).
- **Day 2:** Two Sum (Easy), Group Anagrams (Medium).
- **Day 3:** Top K Frequent Elements (Medium), Product of Array Except Self (Medium).
- **Day 4:** Valid Palindrome (Easy), 3Sum (Medium).
- **Day 5:** Container With Most Water (Medium).
- **Day 6:** Best Time to Buy and Sell Stock (Easy).
- **Day 7: Review/Mock:** Re-do the hardest problem from this week without looking at the solution.

Week 2: Pointers & Sliding Window

These are "tricky" questions often used to filter candidates quickly.

- **Day 8:** Longest Substring Without Repeating Characters (Medium).
- **Day 9:** Longest Repeating Character Replacement (Medium).
- **Day 10:** Minimum Window Substring (Hard - *Attempt only to understand logic*).
- **Day 11:** Valid Parentheses (Easy), Min Stack (Medium).
- **Day 12:** Evaluate Reverse Polish Notation (Medium).
- **Day 13:** Daily Temperatures (Medium - *Intro to Monotonic Stack*).
- **Day 14: Buffer Day:** Catch up on missed problems.

Week 3: Trees & Graphs (The Interview Favorites)

In Face-to-Face interviews, 70% of questions are about Trees or Linked Lists.

- **Day 15:** Reverse Linked List (Easy), Merge Two Sorted Lists (Easy).
- **Day 16:** Reorder List (Medium), Remove Nth Node From End of List (Medium).
- **Day 17:** Invert Binary Tree (Easy), Maximum Depth of Binary Tree (Easy).
- **Day 18:** Same Tree (Easy), Subtree of Another Tree (Easy).
- **Day 19:** Level Order Traversal (Medium), Lowest Common Ancestor (Medium).
- **Day 20:** Number of Islands (Medium - *Graph BFS/DFS Classic*).
- **Day 21:** Clone Graph (Medium).

Week 4: Dynamic Programming & Greedy

The "Hard" Part. Focus on standard problems; don't go too deep into complex DP.

- **Day 22:** Climbing Stairs (Easy), House Robber (Medium).
- **Day 23:** House Robber II (Medium), Longest Palindromic Substring (Medium).
- **Day 24:** Decode Ways (Medium).
- **Day 25:** Unique Paths (Medium - *Grid DP*).
- **Day 26:** Jump Game (Medium), Maximum Subarray (Medium).
- **Day 27:** Insert Interval (Medium), Merge Intervals (Medium).
- **Day 28:** Non-overlapping Intervals (Medium).
- **Day 29: Mock Test:** Pick 3 random problems from the past month and solve in 60 mins.
- **Day 30: Final Review:** Read the solutions of the problems you found hardest.

How to Solve (The 20-Minute Rule)

You are studying, not testing yourself yet.

1. **Read the problem.**
2. **Think for 15-20 minutes.** Try to write pseudo-code.
3. **Stuck?** Do **not** spend 2 hours staring at the screen.
4. **Watch the Solution.** (NeetCode on YouTube is the best resource).
5. **Understand the Logic.**
6. **Code it yourself.** (Do not copy-paste. Close the video and type it).

Summary Checklist

- [ ] **Platform:** LeetCode.
- [ ] **List:** Blind 75 (The list above covers the best of it).
- [ ] **Language:** Python (Recommended for Interviews) or C++/Java.
- [ ] **Consistency:** Missing a day hurts more than solving fewer problems.

Final Tip: If you see a "Hard" problem (like *Trapping Rain Water*), don't panic. In most on-campus placements, solving the "Mediums" quickly and correctly is enough to qualify.